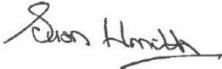


Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Approved by the Board of Trustees: 2 September 2024

Signature of the Chair of the Board of Trustees: 

Review Date: July 2025

Policy Statement

The De Curci Trust's objects are 'to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom ... for children of compulsory school age'. We share a vision of promoting high aspirations and achieving excellent outcomes for all children; fostering a love of learning is central to what we do.

The De Curci Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. We expect all staff and volunteers to make sure their approach is child centred; this means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

We believe that children should never experience abuse of any kind and recognise that extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse. We work in partnership with other agencies, children, parents and carers in order to promote children's welfare and protect them from harm.

The purpose of this policy statement is to protect young people, in particular those who attend our schools, from harm, and to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and their families, with the overarching principles that guide the Trust's approach to child protection.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the De Curci Trust, including members, trustees, local governors, senior leaders, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, including:

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)

[DfE Keeping children safe in education 2024](#)

[HM Government - Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

[HM Government - What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015](#)

[Home Office - Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation 2016](#)

[Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees](#)

A summary of key legislation and guidance in England is also available from [NSPCC Learning](#) .

Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Children includes everyone under the age of 18.

Organisation / Delegation

The De Curci Trust, as proprietor, has the overarching strategic leadership responsibility for safeguarding arrangements within the organisation and its schools. As such, the trust must ensure compliance with its duties under legislation.

However, the control of many day to day issues is delegated to the individual schools. Consequently, the schools' local governing bodies, headteachers and designated safeguarding leads play a pivotal role in implementing this policy and ensuring that highly effective safeguarding practice is in place within their schools. The CEO has oversight of the trust's 'Safeguarding Forum' which reports to the Board of Trustees on safeguarding issues.

[The Maintained schools governance guide](#) (section 2.3) states that all governing bodies should have (link) governors to take specific lead responsibility for safeguarding arrangements, including the Prevent duty.

The De Curci Trust is associated with the [Local Safeguarding Children Boards](#) of each Local Authority in which it operates (currently [Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)). Issues related to safeguarding children is discussed at these boards as required. Trustees and local governors should ensure that the trust's schools contribute to multi-agency working in line with [Working together to safeguard children](#) .

The Role of the De Curci Trust's Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has a duty to:

- safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- have regard to any statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State
- ensure the suitability of staff, supply staff, volunteers and proprietors

When carrying out the Prevent duty as required under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act, trusts are required to follow the Home Office's 'Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales' and the DfE's general advice 'Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty'.

[Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#)

[Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty](#)

The Board of Trustees have obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, (including the Public Sector Equality Duty), and their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

[Human Rights Act 1998](#)

[Equality Act 2010: advice for schools](#)

[Public Sector Equality Duty \(advice for schools\)](#)

[Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

The Board of Trustees will:

- provide strategic leadership that champions a vision of highly effective safeguarding for children and sets an ethos in which their welfare is paramount
- have regard to 'Keeping children safe in education' statutory guidance for schools and ensure that policies, procedures and training in the trust's schools are effective and comply with the law
- designate a senior board level lead to take a leadership responsibility for the trust's safeguarding arrangements - 'the designated lead trustee for safeguarding'
- ensure that the trust's scheme of delegation (governance) and related terms of reference make clear the safeguarding accountabilities and roles across the trust
- implement, monitor and review a safeguarding strategy which promotes the sharing of safeguarding and safer recruitment best practice across the trust – to include facilitating the trust's 'Safeguarding Forum'
- ensure that all trustees and local governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction; and that this training is regularly updated such that colleagues can exercise their governance duties effectively
- provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the trust's schools are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole trust approach to safeguarding – to include the impact of local governance
- regularly receive and review data pertaining to safeguarding – to include the trust's 'Safeguarding Report to Trustees'
- adopt/implement robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities in

schools and colleges – ‘safer recruitment policy and procedures’ – which meet statutory requirements in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service / ‘regulated activity test’ (Freedom Act 2012)

- ensure that schools have sufficient resources, to include people with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity, to meet their safeguarding obligations
- ensure that procedures are in place for dealing with safeguarding concerns or allegations against those working in or on behalf of schools in a paid or unpaid capacity, i.e. members of staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors
- ensure that whistleblowing procedures are in place and designate a senior board level lead to take a leadership responsibility for whistleblowing - ‘the designated trustee for whistleblowing’
- implement appropriate internal control (audit) procedures and appropriate risk management approaches to safeguarding in the trust

The Role of the Schools’ Local Governing Bodies

The local governing bodies have a strategic leadership responsibility for their school’s (schools’) safeguarding arrangements and must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation and meet the requirements of this policy.

The Local Governing Body will:

- champion the trust’s vision of highly effective safeguarding for children and set an ethos in which their welfare is paramount
- have regard to ‘Keeping children safe in education’ statutory guidance for schools and ensure that policies, procedures and training in their school are effective and comply with the law
- designate a local governor to take a leadership responsibility for the school’s safeguarding arrangements - ‘the designated lead local governor for safeguarding’
- implement, monitor and review in their school the trust’s safeguarding strategy which promotes the sharing of safeguarding and safer recruitment best practice – to include proactively engaging with the trust’s ‘Safeguarding Forum’
- ensure that all local governors receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction; and that this training is regularly updated such that colleagues can exercise their governance duties effectively
- provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in their school are effective and support the delivery of a robust whole trust approach to safeguarding
- regularly receive and review data pertaining to safeguarding – to include the school’s ‘Safeguarding Report to Local Governors’
- adopt/implement robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities in schools and colleges – the trust’s ‘safer recruitment policy and procedures’
- ensure that their school has sufficient resources, to include people with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity, to meet their safeguarding obligations
- ensure that the trust’s procedures are understood by staff and in place for dealing with safeguarding concerns or allegations against those working in or on behalf of schools and colleges in a paid or unpaid capacity, i.e. members of staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors
- ensure that the trust’s whistleblowing procedures are in place and designate a local governor to take a leadership responsibility for whistleblowing - ‘the designated local governor for whistleblowing’

- ensure that the school's safeguarding policies and procedures are transparent, clear and easy to understand for staff, pupils and parents/carers; these policies should include a **child protection policy**, a **behaviour policy**, a **staff behaviour policy** (DCT Employee Code of Conduct) and appropriate safeguarding arrangements to respond to **children who go missing from education** – as outlined in [KCSIE24](#) 'Safeguarding policies and procedures' section.
- ensure that their school has an effective **child protection policy** in place which is reviewed at least annually, and which considers the safeguarding context and age-related requirements of the children in the school; in accordance with KCSIE24, the school's child protection policy must:
 - reflect the whole school approach to child-on-child abuse (see paragraph 159 and Part five)
 - reflect reporting systems (as set out at paragraph 96, KCSIE24)
 - describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance
 - refer to locally agreed multi-agency safeguarding arrangements put in place by the safeguarding partners (see paragraphs 106-113, KCSIE24)
 - include policies as reflected elsewhere in Part two of KCSIE24, such as online safety (see paragraph 134 - 151), and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) (see paragraphs 202-204)
 - be reviewed annually (as a minimum) and updated if needed, so that it is kept up to date with safeguarding issues as they emerge and evolve, including lessons learnt
 - be available publicly via the school website
- ensure that an appropriate senior member of staff is appointed to the role of **designated safeguarding lead (DSL)**, and that this member of staff should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including on-line safety) in the school (the responsibilities of the DSL should be explicit in the role holder's job description)
- ensure the designated safeguarding lead has the appropriate status and authority within the school or college to carry out the duties of the post. The role carries a significant level of responsibility and the postholder should be given the additional time, funding, training, resources, and support needed to carry out the role effectively (Annex C of KCSIE22 summarises the duties of the DSL)
- decide whether they choose to have one or more deputy designated safeguarding leads; any deputy (or deputies) should be trained to the same standard as the designated safeguarding lead
- oversee the completion of the PSCP Safeguarding and Early Help Compact Audit (or equivalent) by the DSL and take forward any action points, as appropriate

The Role of Staff and Volunteers

Everyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. School staff/volunteers are particularly important, as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children's welfare and prevent concerns from escalating.

Staff and Volunteers will:

- provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- keep children safe by valuing, listening to and respecting them
- ensure that they understand, comply with and proactively implement their setting's safeguarding and child protection policies, procedures and related expectations

- engage with relevant safeguarding training/professional development
- ensure that they review, understand and enact their obligations under KCSIE24 Part one: Safeguarding information for all staff
- raise any concerns about unsafe practice and potential failures in the school's/trust's safeguarding regime with the DSL or appropriate senior leader (or other [whistleblowing channels](#))

Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside the following De Curci Trust policies/documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection (including protection of biometric information of children in schools)
- Health and Safety
- Internet / Electronic Media
- Managing Allegations of Abuse Against Staff
- Safer Recruitment Policy & Procedures
- Single Central Record (working document)
- Whistleblowing Policy

Key Safeguarding Contacts

If you believe a child is in immediate danger and at risk of harm **call the police on 999**

[Report a concern \(member of public\)](#)

During office hours: 0845 671 0271 or 023 9268 8793

Out of office hours: 0300 555 1373

NSPCC Helpline: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Portsmouth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0845 671 0271 or 023 9268 8793 (office hours); 0300 555 1373 (out of office hours duty team)

Portsmouth Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO): 023 9288 2500 or email LADO@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Designated Leads for Safeguarding (DSLs)

Solent Infant School & Solent Junior School (DDSL) Mrs L Wilby 023 9237 5459

Solent Infant School Mrs E Curthoys 023 9237 1073

Solent Junior School Ms L Peterkin-Aldred 023 9237 5459

safeguarding@thesolentschools.org

Springfield School Mr R Brimacombe 023 9237 9119

safeguarding@springfield.uk.net

Designated Lead Trustee / Local Governors for Safeguarding

Designated lead trustee for safeguarding: Mr C Batstone

Designated trustee for whistleblowing: Mr C Batstone

c/o contact@thedecurcitrust.co.uk 023 9237 9119

Designated lead local governor for safeguarding - Solent Infant School & Solent Junior School: Ms K Murriman

Designated local governor for whistleblowing - Solent Infant School & Solent Junior School: Ms K Murriman

c/o solentjunior@thesolentschools.org 023 9237 5459

Designated lead local governor for safeguarding – Springfield School: Mr J Jethwa

Designated local governor for whistleblowing – Springfield School: Mr C Batstone

c/o contact@springfield.uk.net 023 9237 9119